

GENERAL ORDERS }

No. 9

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 15 March 1984

**COMMENDATION.** The following named officers and enlisted men, members of the Test Platoon, Parachute Troops and Air Infantry, United States Army, are commended for service set forth in the citation indicated below. The Test Platoon, Parachute Troops and Air Infantry, United States Army, composed of the following:

Private First Class Specialist 4th Class Tyerus F. Adams

Second Lieutenant James A. Bassett

Private John E. Borom

Private Leo C. Brown

Private First Class Willie F. Brown

Private First Class Floy Burkhalter

Private First Class Specialist 6th Class Donald L. Colee

Private Jules Corbin

Private First Class Louie D. Davis

Private Ernest L. Dilburn

Private First Class Edgar F. Dodd

Private Joseph E. Doucet

Private First Class Johnnie A. Ellis

Private Specialist 6th Class Aubrey Eberhardt

Private First Class Mitchel Guilbeau

Sergeant John M. Haley

Private First Class Specialist 6th Class George W. Ivy

Sergeant Benedict F. Jacquay

Private Frank Kassell, Jr.

Private Specialist 6th Class Richard J. Kelly

Private Sydney C. Kerksis

Private William N. King

Private First Class Specialist 6th Class John M. Kitchens

Private First Class Edward Martin

Sergeant Loyd McCullough

Private First Class Lester C. McLaney

Private John O. Modisett

Private First Class Tullis Nolin

Private First Class Joseph L. Peters  
 Sergeant Lemuel T. Pitts  
 Private Specialist 6th Class Robert H. Poudert  
 Private First Class Specialist 4th Class John F. Pursley, Jr.  
 Private First Class Benjamin C. Reese  
 Sergeant Grady A. Roberts  
 Private Specialist 6th Class Albert P. Robinson  
 Private First Class Specialist 6th Class Alsie L. Rutland  
 First Lieutenant William T. Ryder  
 Private Thad P. Selman  
 Private Robert E. Sheperd  
 Private First Class Louie O. Skipper  
 Private First Class Raymond G. Smith  
 Private Arthur W. Swilley  
 Private Hugh A. Tracy  
 Private Specialist 6th Class Steve Voils, Jr.  
 Sergeant Hobert B. Wade  
 Private First Class Specialist 4th Class John A. Ward  
 Private First Class Thurman L. Weeks  
 Private First Class Specialist 2d Class Charles M. Wilson  
 Private First Class Specialist 6th Class Obie C. Wilson

is commended for meritorious conduct in the performance of hazardous service from July to September 1940. Organized under the direction of the War Department at a strength of 2 officers and 46 enlisted men from selected volunteers of the 29th Infantry Regiment, it pioneered experimentation to determine the feasibility of employing paratroopers in modern warfare. Long and laborious application to dangerous assignments was necessary to carry out the tactical experiments. Beginning with parachute jumps from low altitudes, the tests went on to mass jumps on 22 August and the first successful platoon jump involving a tactical problem on 29 August. Although several men were injured, the steadfastness and loyalty of purpose of every rank never faltered. The intricate problems of parachute technique were solved, special parachute equipment was designed, test-jumped, and refined, and the organization and minor tactics of parachute infantry were established. Highly successful airborne operations in all theaters of operations throughout the war attest to the achievements of the Test Platoon. (This award supersedes the Commendation awarded these officers and enlisted men, as announced in Section V, General Orders No. 89, War Department, Washington 25, DC, 19 October 1945).

[DAPC-ALA]

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.  
*General, United States Army*  
*Chief of Staff*

Official:  
ROBERT M. JOYCE  
*Major General, United States Army*  
*The Adjutant General*

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